

Lowery was well prepared for the self-defined role he would accept to spiritually guide, sustain, and shepherd the members of his parish and community. Since his arrival at St. Timothy Community Church, Dr. Lowery has devoted his time to providing guidance and training for the youth of northwest Indiana, planning and supporting positive urban initiatives, and addressing crucial issues related to education, health care, crime, and teenage pregnancy.

Dr. Lowery has carried out his youth-, education-, and urban-development-oriented agenda through his voluntarism with a number of prominent community service organizations. Currently, Dr. Lowery serves on the board of directors for the Northwest Indiana Boys and Girls Club, an organization which provides educational, social, and recreational services for young people, supports the Marion Home, a residential facility for young pregnant women, and is a Scoutmaster for Gary Boy Scout Troop 53. Through his work with such distinguished organizations as the Gary Educational Development Foundation and the Northwest Indiana Urban League, he has been instrumental in structuring a comprehensive framework for educational programs, which divert the energies of youth into productive activities. Dr. Lowery has also aided urban development during his tenure as an executive board member for the Northwest Indiana Urban League, Referral Emergency Services, and the Lake County Mental Health Association. In addition to faithfully serving numerous other organizations, Dr. Lowery holds an associate professorship at Indiana University-Northwest, where he teaches in the area of church society and psycho-dynamics of minority problems.

Over the years, Dr. Lowery has been recognized by a number of institutions for his outstanding commitment to northwest Indiana communities. As a result of his theological and humanitarian efforts, he was awarded an honorary doctorate of humane letters from Purdue University-Calumet in 1996, and an honorary doctorate of divinity from the Chicago Theological Seminary in 1991. In addition, he has received countless awards for his community service efforts from such organizations as the Boy Scouts of America, the NAACP, the March of Dimes, and the Lake Area United Way. Some of the more prominent service honors bestowed upon Dr. Lowery include the 1990 State of Indiana Sagamore of the Wabash Award, the 1996 Calumet College St. Joseph the Worker Award, and the 1997 Indiana University-Northwest Chancellor's Medallion Award Citation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Dr. Lowery on his outstanding accomplishments during his 40 years of service to St. Timothy Community Church and its surrounding communities. His wife, Josephine Mathews-Lowery, and their daughters, Gay Marlene Lowery, Lynn Michele Lowery-Darby, and Jan Avis-Lowery, should be proud of his efforts, as his leadership has served as a beacon of hope throughout the Gary community. Dr. Lowery's devotion to improving the quality of life for the people of Indiana's First Congressional District is truly inspirational.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JAMES ROUNDTREE

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. James Roundtree, an individual who is dedicated to helping others in the South Bronx community.

Mr. Roundtree is currently the director of St. Benedict the Moor Neighborhood Center, a grassroots organizations which provides assistance to people living with AIDS and with substance abuse problems.

At the center, located on St. Ann's Avenue, hot meals are served to 200 people a day, 5 days a week. The center also provides referrals to medical facilities, housing, and 12-step programs for victims of substance abuse problems.

The center is funded in part by donations. Some of the center's staff are paid by the national Americorps Program; however, many workers are volunteers.

Mr. Roundtree became the director of the center after Rev. Roger Ciglio, the founder of the program, passed away in 1990. Once a patient of the center himself, Mr. Roundtree has been committed to giving back to those in need.

Over the past 7 years, Mr. Roundtree has been a friend, a counselor, and an inspiration for many who, like him, have been victims of substance abuse.

Mr. Roundtree says that he does not give up on anybody. He knows first hand the difficult challenges faced by recovering victims.

St. Benedict the Moor Neighborhood Center formed a coalition with St. Ann's Church, Public School 30, and the Parks Council, to revitalize the area surrounding the center—the Mott Haven community. The coalition created a garden from 139th to 140th Street. Recovering patients take part in a gardening program as part of their therapy sessions. The garden is now visited by students and families with children. It is also the home for summer jazz concerts.

Mr. Roundtree may leave the center because of health reasons. His contributions to the community have not gone unnoticed and will not be forgotten. They are encouraging to the many individuals he has helped and for those who may follow in his footsteps.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. James Roundtree for his compassion and dedication to helping others in our South Bronx community.

THE REOPENING OF THE BURLINGAME PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct privilege and honor to pay tribute to the Burlingame, CA, Public Library, one of the finest community institutions in our country. To me and to the thousands of Bay Area residents who have had the pleasure of using this outstanding facility, the importance of the Bur-

lingame Public Library cannot be measured merely by its diverse collection of 239,000 books, nor its 400 periodical subscriptions, nor the beautiful Tuscan-style building which has housed these items since the days of the Great Depression; rather, the library is seen by all of us in terms of the memories amassed under the shadow of its beautiful tapestries. It is a place where our children learned to read, our high school students researched their first school reports, and our eyes were opened to limitless intellectual, educational, and creative pleasures.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute not only to this establishment's storied past, but to its glowing future. On October 4, 1997, more than 85 years after the people of Burlingame joined together to build their first public library, and after 8 years of dedicated planning, a new Burlingame Public Library will be dedicated by a justifiably proud and delighted community. The new structure will maintain the charm and elegance of the initial structure, while offering state-of-the-art facilities in line with the 21st century information age.

The grand tradition of the Burlingame Public Library came into being in the early 1900's as Burlingame experienced an influx of new residents from San Francisco and from other parts of the country. The creation of a new, free library in 1912 was one of many milestones in the town's growth. The library's first home was a former church building at Primrose and Bellevue, but this small structure was soon made obsolete by the continued growth of Burlingame's population. In 1930, construction began on a new Burlingame Public Library.

Designed by Col. E.L. Norberg, a longtime Burlingame resident, the new building was erected in a romantic style which evoked images of Tuscan villas and monasteries. Norberg's beautiful creation would serve Burlingame for over six decades as a cultural and literary center, a community gathering place, and a second home to thousands of students exploring its first rate academic collections. As Burlingame grew so did the library, and new additions were dedicated in 1960 and 1972. By the mid-1980's, the success of the Burlingame Public Library prompted calls for even more significant improvements to the building's structure, foundation, and technological facilities.

With the full support of the community, the process of planning and organizing the library's reconstruction soon began in earnest. This operation was led by Burlingame's skilled city librarian, Mr. Al Escoffier, along with an able library board, a wonderful staff, and untiring volunteers. Financial backing came from throughout Burlingame, most notably from two devoted sources: The Friends of the Library, which has been raising funds for the library for over four decades, and the Burlingame Library Foundation, organized in 1994 to collect moneys for furnishings and technology in the new space. These dedicated groups provided vital assistance during years of preparation and design study.

Group 4/Architecture, Research and Planning, Inc., one of northern California's most distinguished architectural firms, was selected to formulate a plan for the new library. The product of its labors was masterful, a blueprint for renovation that would merge the timeless beauty of Norberg's original composition with

the requirements for expansion and modernization. Group 4's construction partners, Richard Sampson Associates, Inc., of Pleasanton and Dennis J. Amoroso Construction Company, Inc., of San Francisco joined to make this outstanding plan a reality.

Today, after 8 years planning, 17 months of construction, and an investment of \$10 million, the splendid Burlingame Public Library is about to be reopened to the community. The building's original style has been maintained, as the two 1930's wings remain intact and other important details, such as the authentic wood windows and solid oak tables and chairs, are still there. While the essence of Norberg's creation will continue to be a Burlingame landmark for generations to come, the new library has nearly doubled in size, from 26,100 to 47,300 square feet, and its foundation has been reconstructed to flex in a seismic event. It will offer over 50 computer terminals to speed and simplify information access for both children and adults. The new library will even have available a new service, self check out, which will make taking out books as easy as obtaining money from an ATM machine and make lengthy lines at check-out counters obsolete. It is truly a community institution for the 21st century.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the people of Burlingame on the opening of their new library, and in commending the tireless community activists who brought this dream to fruition.

IN HONOR OF THE REVEREND
WILLIAM AUGUSTUS JONES, JR.

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today and ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the Reverend William Augustus Jones, Jr., pastor of the Bethany Baptist Church.

Pastor Jones came to Brooklyn in 1962. Within 5 years he had led a congregation to the building of a neogothic edifice now known as the Bethany Baptist Church. Under his masterful direction, and with the help of a full-time 27 member staff, the church conducts a multifaceted program to the community which includes outreach ministries via national radio and television.

Pastor Jones has served as national chairman of SCLC's Operation Breadbasket and as a member of the general council of the Baptist World Alliance. He was former president of the Progressive National Baptist Convention and founder of the National Black Pastor's Conference. In 1972, he was the recipient of the prestigious Frederick Douglas Award presented by the New York Urban League. For many years now he has been recognized by a number of distinguished organizations and awarded a variety of accolades, including, in 1996, a doctor of literature degree by the Evangelical Reformed School of Theology in Toledo, OH.

In addition to his clerical duties, he finds time to educate by serving as a visiting professor at a number of theological seminaries. He has also found time to pen such works as, "The Black Church Looks at the Bicentennial,

Responsible Preaching" and "The African American Church: Past, Present and Future."

I urge my colleagues here today to join me in recognizing this outstanding individual, Pastor Jones, who has dedicated his life to the spiritual enhancement and educational improvement of the community. I wish to thank you, Pastor Jones, for sharing your gift with us all. Also, for showing us that a wholly spiritual life is indeed a fulfilling life.

TUNING IN TO COMPETITION

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, 18 months ago the President signed into law, the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Since that time, many people have complained that the competition that was supposed to develop hasn't yet materialized. While it's true that there hasn't been as much competition as those of us who supported the bill would have hoped—for example, not a single Bell Co. has been allowed to compete in the long-distance business—telephone companies are definitely providing competition in those areas where they are permitted to compete.

Monday's Wall Street Journal reported on competition in the delivery of cable television service, and detailed how customers have benefited from Ameritech's entry into that market. Customer service has improved. Innovative packaging of services has increased. Competition is serving the customer just as we knew it would.

Ameritech has already opened up its local market to competition. Local phone subscribers in Michigan have the ability to change their telephone companies, and many are doing so. Now it is time for the FCC to learn from success and open up competition in long distance, so that all the benefits of the 1996 act are available for the American people. I commend this article to our colleagues and to anyone who believes that competition hasn't materialized. Ameritech is leading the way. Let us encourage the FCC to follow.

[From the Wall Street Journal, Sept. 22, 1997]

IT'S THE PHONE MAN AT THE DOOR—AND HE HAS A DEAL ON CABLE TV—AS COMPETITION BREAKS OUT, A TRAVELING SALESMAN FINDS A JADED AUDIENCE

(By Bryan Gruley)

ST. CLAIR SHORES, MI.—On a quiet street of neat frame houses, soaring oak trees and fluttering U.S. flags, William Kline stands in his driveway talking about cable television.

Actually, he's yelling.

The 73-year-old retiree is furious with his cable provider, Comcast Corp. "They raise the damn prices whenever they want," he says. He also hates the programs. "Who wants to watch that crap? Who wants to watch 'The Simpsons?'" And he is no fan of the customer service, either.

Listening patiently is Thomas Roland, a fresh-faced young salesman who hopes to persuade Mr. Kline to dump Comcast and switch to Ameritech New Media, a unit of Ameritech Corp., the Chicago Baby Bell. "It sounds like you're pretty upset," Mr. Roland says. "If you don't like the way your cable company has treated you, that's why we're here."

Something alien to most Americans is emerging in the suburbs of Detroit: head-to-head competition for cable-TV service. Telephone giant Ameritech is building cable systems and offering an alternative to consumers who have long had to live with the prices and service of a sole local provider—or go without cable. Mr. Roland and other salespeople in brick-red Ameritech jackets scurry door-to-door bearing gifts in black shoulder bags: Coupons for \$10 monthly discounts. Free premium channels and installation. Round-the-clock customer phone lines. Nifty on-screen TV listings and high-tech remote controls.

They are looking for people like Duane Lamers, a retired school administrator who buys cable service from the local system of Tele-Communications Inc., of Englewood, Colo. "I've been champing at the bit," he says, ushering Mr. Roland into his home in suburban Troy, Mich. "Anything's better than what I've got now."

Sitting at his kitchen table, Mr. Lamers signs up with American and lists the beefs he has with TCI. "The slightest weather change and I end up with three or four snow channels," he says. Outages always seem to interrupt his favorite show, the NewsHour With Jim Lehrer, he says, and he has given up trying to get service restored quickly. Mr. Roland commiserates: "That's what I've been hearing from other people."

"I'VE GOT THE EDGE"

Ronald Hargreaves, 69, chose to stay with TCI but figures he gained anyway. Soon after Ameritech launched service in Troy, TCI gave him a local sports channel free. (TCI says it was contractually required to do so.) "Now I've got the edge," the hardware-store worker says. "You can either give me service or I can go someplace else with my \$30 a month."

That is precisely what was supposed to happen as a result of last year's telecommunications law. But cable remains a monopoly in most cities, mostly because the big phone companies that were expected to challenge it prefer to focus on their core business. Some small towns have built rival cable systems, and other tiny pockets of competition have sprouted. But cable operators control 87% of the U.S. multichannel video market, the Federal Communications Commission says.

Ameritech is the big exception. With cable franchises in more than 50 cities in Michigan, Ohio and Illinois, the Baby Bell is wooing longtime customers of Comcast, TCI, Time Warner Corp. and other cable giants. Ameritech says it signs up one of every three households it approaches, more than expected when it began service last year. The launch is expensive; Ameritech doesn't expect cable to show profit for several years.

NO SHORTCUTS

But Richard Notebaert, Ameritech's chairman and chief executive, says offering cable TV is part of a long-term plan to deliver a single bundle of voice, video and data services into homes. "There are no shortcuts," he says. "You have to commit resources and find out if your model works. Ours is working very well."

As Ameritech captures some customers and incumbent providers win back others, competition expands the Michigan cable market, the companies agree. Ameritech says as many as 8% of its subscribers didn't take cable before. And monthly subscriber charges for MediaOne, the cable arm of Denver-based US West Media Group, have grown about 20% in Canton Township, Mich., during the past year even as Ameritech added 1,700 subscribers, according to the companies and reports filed with the township.